

1 The Town Hall

Opened in 1914 to honour an obligation to local citizens following Portobello's amalgamation with Edinburgh. This is the third of Portobello's town halls, the first being the Baptist Church (site 19) and the second the Police Station, (site 2).



On the opposite side, further west lies:

2 The Police Station

Completed in 1877 as the second town hall and designed by Robert Paterson, it is a jolly piece of Scottish Baronial architecture with pepper pot turrets.



On the same side of the High Street, further west lies:

3 "Shrub Mount", home of Hugh Miller

Behind 76-80 Portobello High Street stands "Shrub Mount", home of Hugh Miller, the famous Victorian journalist and geologist who wrote "Testimony of the Rocks". On Christmas Eve, 1856, he shot himself in a room overlooking Portobello High Street.

Cross the High Street, head west then turn left into:

4 Adelphi Place

Notice the former mission hall of 1863 on your right [Photo back panel]. Head up into the Adelphi development of single storey brick and stone artisan cottages, many of which were built in the 1860s by Thomas Tough for the workers in his pottery.

Retrace your steps to the High Street. Cross over, then head west, turning right into Bridge Street. The cottage on the left is:

5 No 3 Bridge Street, Sir Harry Lauder's Cottage

This was originally two cottages, Nos. 3 and 5. No. 3 is traditionally reputed to be the birthplace of Sir Harry Lauder, the famous music hall entertainer. He was born in Portobello on August 4th 1870 and achieved worldwide fame with his portrayal of a mean, canny, daft Scot. He died in 1950.



Walk down Bridge Street towards the sea. On your left you see:

6 The Kilns

Built on the site of the old harbour, are two kilns, 1906 and 1909, the last two surviving bottle kilns in Scotland, and previously part of Buchan's Pottery. Nearby stood Rathbone's, later Gray's Pottery. [Photo back panel]

Walk east along the Promenade, past the amusement arcades and turn up Beach Lane where you see:

7 The Tower

An octagon, built in 1785 in stone and Portobello brick as a summerhouse or folly for "Shrub Mount". The walls contain medieval stone carvings and column capitals and 17th Century architectural fragments which are thought to have come from the Mercat Cross in Edinburgh, the University buildings in South Bridge Edinburgh and St. Andrew's Cathedral. The adjoining mansion was added in 1856.



Head east along the Promenade. The next street is:

8 Bath Street

A mixture of building styles, distinguished Georgian villas, (Nos. 18-20), lively Victorian tenements, (Nos. 29-39), and a former Art Deco cinema, (1938).

Walk back down Bath Street, and turn right into Straiton Place. The next street on the right is:



Detail from the Coade Stone Pillars